

# **Applying for Free and Reduced Price School Meals**

## *Helping your budget **and** your community*

### **Who Should Apply?**

Families that meet the income guidelines stated on the application (attached) should consider applying for Free and Reduced Priced Meals.

### **Benefits of School Meals:**

- School meals could provide your child with up to **10** meals a week (breakfast and lunch).
- School Meals meet the Federal Nutrition Standards and provide a healthy and balanced meal.
- School Meals provide valuable employment for many food service workers across the state.

### **How to Apply:**

Fill out the application enclosed in this packet and turn it into the school office.

If your family qualifies for SNAP benefits (Food Stamps) you do not have to fill out the School Meals application. Just bring in your benefit award letter that you received from the SNAP office to your child's school office. You may also write in your SNAP case number in the space provided on the application.

### **When to Apply:**

You can apply for Free and Reduced Priced School Meals at any point throughout the year! You may also reapply at any time if your situation changes.

### **School Meals and The Summer Food Service Program**

Applying for Free and Reduced Price School Meals can help your community beyond the school year. Participation in Free and Reduced Priced School Meals can help a school qualify for The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP).

SFSP provides free meals to children during the summer when school is not in session. A school must have a certain number of children eligible for Free and Reduced Priced Meals in order to have a Summer Food site. So signing up for School Meals can help provide more than just school time nutrition for many families in your community.

Remember: If you sign up for School Meals you do not have to use the benefits. You may choose to pay for your child's meals or pack their lunch if you prefer. But by signing up, you can help your school qualify for SFSP.

*Funding for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, equipment grants, and many other school grant opportunities are also dependent on the percent of children eligible for Free and Reduced Price School Meals.*

